

ACTS

OF THE APOSTLES

Nov. 21 – 22
Lesson 11

Move Beyond Your Bubble: God is Calling You

This Discussion Guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements, but members can still interact even if they missed the sermon. To use this guide in your Community Group, try to work through the questions on your own before you meet. You might not get to all of the questions, and that's okay. If your Community Group does not meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 13

SUMMARY OF THE SERIES: The Acts of the Apostles describes the beginning of the church missional movement that was started by the resurrected Jesus. Most importantly, the church's power and strength comes from the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, the church ceases to be the church. Followers of Jesus have the Holy Spirit at conversion and receive a new nature, but Acts shows us how we need continual filling of the Holy Spirit to be the church engaged on mission. Of course, we can't manufacture this but need to put ourselves in a position of asking and waiting for the Spirit. Expectation without agenda. And we need to be entering people's world's listening to them, and knowing when to bring the healing words of Jesus and good news of the Kingdom to others if we are to be engaged on mission.

GETTING STARTED

God has called each of us to the mission to be his witnesses in a way that influences others to be followers of Jesus and experience the life-change He can bring to their life. However, the level of distraction in our life can keep us from this mission or being aware for when God is speaking to us. What distractions in your life get in the way to hearing God? What distractions in your life get in the way with you living on mission?

DISCUSSING THE WORD

1. Read Acts 13:1-3. What were these followers of Jesus doing that put them in the posture to hear from the Holy Spirit? What spiritual disciplines or set rhythms in your life do have to intentionally seek the Lord and hear from Him? How can God speak to you through others?
2. Read Acts 13:4-52. Paul shares the gospel message of Jesus and shows how the Old Testament Scriptures pointed to Jesus. How does all Scripture point to Jesus and the message of the gospel? Why do we often need to hear the gospel again and again? Why does God speak to us in this way and why is it important to living a life on mission?
3. Read Acts 14:19-24. How do you think the events Paul faced from opposition informed his message to the disciples Iconium and Antioch (see v.22-23). How can your life experiences be used to encourage others to follow Jesus? How can these experiences be a part of your message in living a life on mission?

BOOKS & RESOURCES

The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose in an Age of Distraction by Justin Whitmel Earley

When the Soul Listens by Jan Johnson

Listening Prayer by Leanne Payne

MISSIONAL RESPONSE TO GOD

1. Think of 2 friends who haven't experience life-change through Jesus. Write them down on a piece of paper and commit to pray for them.
2. Pray for opportunities to get to know them and pray for the filling of God's Spirit for boldness to enter into their pain, their world, their interests, their reality so that you can earn the right to speak into their heart and soul.
3. Invest in getting to know them. Think through these ideas:
 - Is there a need? Then fill it.
 - Is there a hurt? Then heal it.
 - Is there a common interest? Then do it.
4. When God's timing allows, invite them to a Worship Service, Alpha, or any other type of church gathering.

PERSONAL RESPONSE TO GOD

Take the Spiritual Growth Assessment!

A follower of Jesus should be growing spiritually to become more like Jesus. However, sometimes we do not know where we need to grow, or we do not go deep enough with where transformation needs to take place. Or sometimes we feel spiritually stagnated or stuck.

Just as many of us go to the doctor's office to get a baseline health assessment and routine check-ups for our physical and mental health, our spiritual health and total well-being is equally important. This assessment is merely a tool to help you assess the depth of your relationship with God and where you need to grow. Honesty is key. Going deep in your relationship with God is the goal.

As you complete the assessment, avoid rushing. Listen for God's voice to encourage and challenge you. Consider this experience as one-on-one time with Him. Be intentional in your growth towards Christlikeness. The answers you give will be helpful for you to understand where you need to grow and you will be able to develop your own personal plan.

You can access the Assessment on the Adult Ministries web page. www.myfac.org